

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to all of the claims now in the application (i.e., claims 14-28) is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Pursuant to the Examiner's request, a "Reference to the Related Applications" section has been added to the application and an Abstract of the invention has been added, which is enclosed on a separate sheet with this Amendment. In addition, Applicants have added the words "or conduit" to the specification since it is a more apt U.S. term for describing the fluid exchange "route" as set forth in the specification.

With respect to the Section 112 rejections, Applicants have amended the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. More specifically, Applicants have amended claims 14 , 16-20, 23, 24, and 25 to remove the typographical errors and the objectionable language. Accordingly, it is believed that the 112 rejection of the claims has been overcome.

Before addressing the 102/103 rejection of the claims, it should be noted that at the heart of Applicant's invention, is a device which provides for essential slip resistant positional anchorage of the multiport body to a user's body part, which is accomplished in two ways - (1) with the multiport body being flush with the user's

body part (as now set forth in amended claim 14) and (2) with the multiport body raised from the user's body part (as now set forth in amended claim 15). As will be discussed below in further detail, these novel arrangements are neither disclosed nor suggested by any of the cited prior art.

By this Amendment, the subject matter of claim 20 has been added to independent claim 14 to define a multiport body secured to a band which entirely encircles a user's body part and holds the bottom surface of the multiport body against the surface of the user's body part; the preferred feature of fluid exchange between the first and second port of the multiport body, (which was originally set forth in claim 14) has now been moved to new dependent claim 28. Furthermore, independent claim 15 has also been amended to define the band as having a first and second end and a fastening device for securing these ends (support for which can be found on page 3, lines 6-10 of the specification), and to include the subject matter of claim 18 that the band passes through the multiport body. Additionally, claim 15 now recites the limitation that the multiport body is raised above the user's body part (see spec. pg.3, lines 1-2). New claims 26 and 27, that are dependent on claims 14 and 15, respectively, have been added to set forth that the multiport body has a fluid communication path (26) arranged in a T-shaped pattern, support for which can be found in the specification, pg. 5, lines 24-26 and in original claim 15.

Turning now in detail to the 102/103 rejections, while the McLaughlin reference discloses an infusion assembly attached to a strap by an adhesive and the Dillon reference discloses a multiport valve releasably attached to a strap by Velcro, neither of these references teach or suggest the provision of the band holding the substantially flat bottom surface of the multiport body directly against the surface of the user's body part, as now set forth in claim 14. Additionally, neither of these references disclose the provision of the band passing through a multiport body and anchored in a manner so as to raise the multiport body above the user's body part, as now set forth in claim 15.

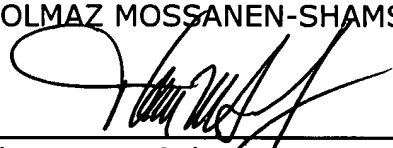
Moreover, none of the secondary references cure these basic and crucial deficiencies of the main references. In particular, Daniels discloses a holder for an intravenous apparatus, however, it does not teach nor suggest use of its device with a multiport body having a substantially flat bottom surface, as set forth in claims 14 and 15. Similarly, the Rash reference does not disclose a wristband to be used with an infusion device and does not teach or suggest use of this device with a wristband where the infusion device rests against the user's body parts or is raised above the user's body part. In fact, Rash states that an object of its invention is to provide an infusion catheter assembly which may be more easily gripped by a user (see spec. col. 1, lines 19-21). In view thereof, it is believed that the claims, as amended, are patentably distinguishable over these cited references.

Finally, Applicant hereby requests a one month extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action. Credit Card payment form no. PTO 2038 in the amount of \$60.00 is enclosed. Any fee deficiency or overpayment may be charged or credited to applicant's Deposit Account No. 07-0130.

In summary, the novel features of the Applicant's invention are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited prior art. In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims now pending in the application and under consideration (i.e., claims 14-28) are allowable over the cited references and formal allowance thereof at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Abstract
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By:  Date: September 16, 2005
THOMAS M. GALGANO

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